

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/607,518

Applicant(s)

SPIRKL ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

JOHN P. TRIMMINGS

2117

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment dated 5/8/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20080522.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/John P Trimmings/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2117

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to the applicant's amendment dated 5/8/2008.

The applicant cancelled claims 9-14.

The applicant amended claims 1 and 3-8.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kerry Sisselman on 5/27/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

The examiner notes that although the applicant has changed the content of claim 1 in the Amendment submitted 5/8/2008, the status of the claim was submitted as "original". The examiner therefore, in an agreement with the applicant's representative, Kerry Sisselman, stipulates and submits an amendment to claim 1 which states that the claim is "currently amended".

Claim 1 (~~original~~currently amended) : A method for checking the refresh function of a memory having a refresh device, which comprises

determining if refresh request pulses are being produced on the memory and at what intervals of time the refresh request pulses are being produced on the memory by detecting the refresh request pulses at a pad;

supplying refresh test pulses produced outside the memory using a freely cycling external oscillator and an external counter to a control unit of the memory, via a multiplex device, ~~with refresh test pulses produced outside the memory~~ the refresh test pulses being supplied to the control unit instead of ~~supplying the control unit with the refresh request~~ pulses, the multiplex device being controlled by a test signal; and

checking the refresh device of the memory utilizing the refresh test pulses.

Response to Amendment

2. In view of the applicant's amendments and cancelled claims, and the examiner's amendment (above), all objections and rejections of the remaining claims 1-8 are withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: As per independent claim 1, Tanazaki and Kang teach a method for checking the refresh function of a memory having a refresh device comprising supplying a control unit of the memory with refresh test pulses produced outside the memory instead of supplying the control unit with the refresh request pulses, and checking the refresh device of the memory utilizing the refresh test pulses, and further discloses determining if refresh request pulses are being produced on the memory and at what intervals of time the refresh request pulses are being produced on the memory. But the references have failed to further provide support or disclosure of the unique feature as claimed by the applicant in the claim, wherein the external refresh test pulses are driven

by an oscillator and counter via a test signal controlled multiplex device. Therefore, independent claims 1, as well as dependent claims 2-8, are each allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN P. TRIMMINGS whose telephone number is (571)272-3830. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jacques Louis-Jacques can be reached on (571) 272-6962. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John P Trimmings/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2117

jpt